



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

OCT 11 2006

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SURFACE WATER
QUALITY BUREAU

Marcy Leavitt, Chief
Surface Water Quality Bureau
State of New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

Re: Approval of the TMDL for the Jemez River Watershed (Valles Caldera National Preserve Boundaries to Headwaters) for Turbidity and Temperature

Dear Ms. *Leavitt*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 has reviewed the final total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) transmitted to Miguel Flores on August 23, 2006, for the Jemez River watershed. Following our review and evaluation of these TMDLs developed by the State of New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), for turbidity and temperature (heat) in the East Fork Jemez River and Jaramillo Creek, EPA is pleased to approve the following TMDLs:

Waterbody Name / 303(d) List ID	Pollutant	Wasteload Allocation	Load Allocation	Margin of Safety	TMDL
East Fork Jemez River NM-2106.A_10 (formerly NM-MRG2- 30000)	Heat (j/m ² /sec/day)	0	113	13	126
Jaramillo Creek NM-2106.A_12 (formerly NM-MRG2- 30200)	Heat (j/m ² /sec/day)	0	94.7	10.3	105
Jaramillo Creek NM-2106.A_12 (formerly NM-MRG2- 30200)	Total Suspended Solids (lbs/day)	0	69.7	23.2	92.9

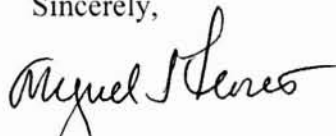
This decision includes all wasteload and load allocations assigned on these listed waters. Our analysis indicates that these allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of water quality standards.

This approval action involves a total of 3 TMDL for water quality limited segments on New Mexico's 2002-2004 §303(d) list. Included in this TMDL submittal, was a TMDL Implementation Plan. Presently, EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation plans under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Therefore, EPA is taking no action to approve or disapprove the TMDL Implementation Plans submitted by NMED.

We appreciate the opportunity to work closely with NMED throughout the development of these TMDLs. We are impressed with the dedication and technical rigor which they have brought to this process. In particular, Heidi Henderson, Nina Wells, and Seva Joseph should be commended for their efforts.

We look forward to implementation of these TMDLs, and continuing to work collaboratively with NMED on water quality issues in the Jemez River watershed. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (214) 665-7101, or you may call Curry Jones of my staff at (214) 665-6793.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miguel I. Flores". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Miguel I. Flores
Director,
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosures